

wrong today. Direct funding of our churches was wrong 200 years ago, as evidenced by our Founding Fathers' writing of the Bill of Rights; and it is wrong today.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I want to share with my colleagues that we have a unanimous vote to vote against this bill and to support the substitute. It should not be a surprise why. We all are victims of discrimination. We do not want to roll back the clock. We are recipients of faith-based leadership throughout our history. We are not afraid of faith-based organizations. We support them. We work with them.

All of the ministers who were brought here were snookered to think that they were getting something, until they found this clause in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, they unanimously decided that it was not worth rolling back the clock and codifying discrimination again in the year 2001. I would ask all of the Members to please support the substitute and vote down the main bill.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¼ minutes to myself.

Mr. Speaker, churches have a role to play in the provision of social services, but Members should vote for the substitute to make sure that this bill does not establish employment discrimination with public funds, with preemption of State and local civil rights law, to make sure the bill provides offsets for the cost of the bill, to make sure that we protect participants from leadership coercion, and that we do not voucherize \$47 billion worth of programs without congressional review.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS).

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, for their efforts in getting this bill to the floor of the House today.

Mr. Speaker, let me clarify some things that have been said. We do not spend one dime of Social Security or Medicare money to pay for this bill. Nothing in this bill changes any of the civil rights laws. I, too, have been a beneficiary of civil rights law. We do not add or take away from the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Mr. Speaker, we do not violate the artificial argument of church and State, because this bill is not about church or State. It is about people in the trenches every day having more resources to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to house the homeless, to help the drug and alcohol addicted.

This is not about funding faith. It is about people. It is about their hopes,

their dreams, their ideas, their ambitions and, most importantly, their goodness. We do not fund churches, mosques, synagogues. We fund their compelling faith to assist those in need. This bill is about standing with people all over America who cannot afford to contribute to any of our campaigns. They cannot give money to some political party or political action committees. They just have a compelling love and a compelling faith to assist those people in their communities that need help.

□ 1500

We should work with them, not against those people in our legislative efforts.

It is fascinating to me the arguments that I have heard, and I too know of many black ministers who have fought for civil rights. Many of the black ministers who came here in April to the faith-based summit, they knew exactly what they were getting into. Just yesterday we got an endorsement letter from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, an organization made up of many black ministers from around the country who stood in the civil rights effort. Rosa Parks, Catholic bishops, people from all walks of life, the Jewish community, all have supported this bill.

As the gentleman from North Carolina said, there are many people on both sides of this debate, both sides of the aisle, who are good people, who see the world differently, who say that we should allow all people that want to help, give them opportunities just to compete for the dollars. There is no preference. There is no set-aside. We just say faith-based organizations should have an opportunity to compete on a level playing field. Give them the opportunity to do what they do best. They do not get their names in the paper. They do not work a half a day. Yes, they work a half a day. They work the first 12 hours and somebody else works the other 12. They do not get their names in the paper, they do not get a lot of attention, they just love the people who have the same ZIP Code that they have in trying to meet their needs.

Vote "no" on the substitute. Vote "yes" on H.R. 7.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Democratic Substitute for the Community Solutions Act as there are thousands of communities and millions of people in our country who have serious problems and are in need of real solutions.

I rise in support of this legislation, not because I believe that it is Panacea, I don't believe in one-stop cure-alls for the overwhelming magnitude of social, emotional, spiritual and economic ills which plague our society and are in need of every rational, logical, and proven approach that we can muster.

And yes, Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation because I have faith, faith in the ability of religious institutions to provide human services without proselytizing. I have faith in these institutions to organize themselves into corporate

business entities to develop programs, to keep records, and to manage their affairs in compliance with legal requirements. I also have confidence in the ability of these institutions to magnify the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

I have listened intently to the issues raised by my colleagues who are concerned about legislation and I commend them for their diligence. I appreciate their concerns about charitable choice, ranging from discrimination to infringement on individual liberties.

However, charitable choice is already a part of three Federal social programs: One, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996; two, the Community Services Block Grant Act of 1998, and is part of the 2000 Reauthorization of funding for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Each of these programs possess the overarching goal of helping those in poverty, or treating those suffering from chemical dependency, and the programs seem to achieve their purposes by providing resources in the most effective and efficient manner. The opponents of this legislation have expressed concern about the possible erosion of rights and protections of program participants and beneficiaries. (And rightly so, nothing could be more important). Therefore, I am pleased that the crafters of this legislation (the Democratic Substitute) have taken note and forthrightly addressed these concerns.

We must be aware of the fact that many people in poverty, suffer from some form of drug dependency. Alcohol, narcotics, and in some instances, even legalized prescription or over-the-counter drugs.

Many of these individuals have been beaten down, have virtually given up, and have lost the will to overcome their difficulties.

It is in these instances and situations, Mr. Speaker, that I believe the Community Solutions Act can and will help the most.

It reminds us, Mr. Speaker, that poverty, deprivation and the inability to cope with anxiety, frustration, hopelessness is still rampant in our society. Take for example, if you will an ex-offender, unable to get a job, illiterate, semi-illiterate, disavowed by the ambiguities and contradictions of a sometimes cold, misunderstanding, uncaring or unwilling-to-help society, creates the need for something different; new theories, old theories reinforced, new approaches, new treatment modalities.

A preacher friend of mine was fond of saying that new occasions call for new truths, new situations make ancient remedies uncouth.

Well, I can tell you Mr. Speaker, the drug problem in this country is so overwhelming, so difficult to deal with, so pervasive . . . the Mental health challenges require so much, the abused, neglected and abandoned problems require psychiatrists, counselors, psychologists, well developed pharmaceuticals and all of the social health, physical health and professional treatment that we can muster, but I also believe that we could use a little Balm of Gilead to have and hold, I do believe that we could use a little Balm of Gilead to help heal our sin, sick souls.

After reading much of the material and listening to the debate, I am convinced that the activities covered and being promoted by this legislation are too broad to leave under the exemption of section 702 of the 1964 Civil